

"THIS is a fantastic organization. It makes me feel very welcomed and comfortable . . . THIS has given me better understanding of the U.S. life and society and also given me some new good American friends." Ingela Beiming—Sweden

"THIS is a window that opens Washington for us and lets us experience and know it. It opens opportunities to meet different people." Marilia Bulhoes—Brazil

Congratulations to THIS and its volunteers on 45 years of service to the diplomatic community.●

RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the remarkable achievement of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana, which was named "National 2006 Agency of the Year" by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America this summer.

This honor was achieved through the hard work and persistence of the entire staff, board of directors, Bigs, Littles, donors and other stakeholders. Headquartered in Fort Wayne, IN, the agency was established in August 1972 and continues to assist young adolescents who lack guidance and support by creating positive and enduring relationships between youth and adults and by supporting those relationships with appropriate screening, training and supervision. Presently, more than 1,100 area youth participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters programs in 10 Indiana counties and 2 Michigan counties.

Several factors contributed to the agency receiving this year's award. During the past 5 years, it has grown exponentially in many areas, from expanding the region it helps to increasing the length of the matches it provides, which grew by almost 120 percent between 2001 and 2005. The number of participating adult volunteers has increased by 90 percent since 2003, and the time taken to enroll those volunteers has been decreased by 60 days over the course of last 2 years, allowing more Bigs to be matched with more Littles, thereby fulfilling the Big Brothers Big Sisters mission of helping children to reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one relationships with measurable impact.

In addition to being recognized as the National 2006 Agency of the Year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana was also a finalist in the categories of Board of the Year and Chief Executive Officer of the Year—the only agency to achieve this distinction. It should also be noted that all of these nominations were in the "Large" category, yet the Fort Wayne agency was considered mid-sized only a few years ago. Since that time, the organization's growth in programs and quality have bolstered it to the top among BBBS agencies in large metropolitan markets.

I have supported Federal funding for agency programs like the Amachi program, which pairs faith-based mentors in one-to-one matches with children of incarcerated parents, as well as its Lunch Buddies program, which pairs elementary school students with caring adult mentors for weekly lunch visits at the children's schools.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana makes a visible impact in the lives of Hoosier youths, and it is deserving of the recognition that it has received. I offer my sincere congratulations today and look forward to continuing to support to this exemplary organization in the future.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:34 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Brandon, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 503. An act to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5122) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HUNTER, WELDON of Pennsylvania, HEFLEY, SAXTON, MCHUGH, EVERETT, BARTLETT of Maryland, THORNBERRY, HOSTETTLER, JONES of North Carolina, RYUN of Kansas, GIBBONS, HAYES, CALVERT, SIMMONS, Mrs. DRAKE, Messrs. DAVIS of Kentucky, SKELTON, SPRATT, ORTIZ, TAYLOR of Mississippi, ABERCROMBIE, MEEHAN, REYES, SNYDER, SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Messrs. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and ANDREWS.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Messrs. HOEKSTRA, LAHOOD, and Ms. HARMAN.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of sections 571 and 572 of the House bill, and sections 571, 572, 1081, and 1104 of the Senate amendment, and modifica-

tions committed to conference: Messrs. MCKEON, KLINE, and GEORGE MILLER of California.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of sections 314, 601, 602, 710, 3115, 3117, and 3201 of the House bill, and sections 332-335, 352, 601, 722, 2842, 3115, and 3201 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BARTON of Texas, GILLMOR, and DINGELL.

From the Committee on Government Reform, for consideration of sections 343, 721, 811, 823, 824, 1103, 1104, and 3115 of the House bill, and sections 371, 619, 806, 823, 922, 1007, 1043, 1054, 1088, 1089, 1101, and 3115 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, SHAYS, and WAXMAN.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of section 1026 of the House bill, and section 1044 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. KING of New York, REICHERT, and THOMPSON of Mississippi.

From the Committee on International Relations, for consideration of sections 1021-1023, 1201-1204, 1206, title XIII, sections 3113 and 3114 of the House bill, and sections 1014, 1021-1023, 1054, 1092, 1201-1208, 1210, 1214, title XIII, sections 3112 and 3113 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HYDE, LEACH, and LANTOS.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of section 1021 of the House bill, and sections 666, 1044, 1086, 1089, 1091, and 1094 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SENSENBRENNER, COBLE, and CONYERS.

From the Committee on Resources, for consideration of sections 601, 602, and 1036 of the House bill, and section 601 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. POMBO, WALDEN of Oregon, and GRIJALVA.

From the Committee on Science, for consideration of sections 312 and 911 of the House bill, and sections 333, 874, and 1082 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BOEHLERT, SODREL, and GORDON.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of sections 874 and 1093 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. KELLY, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 312, 551, 601, 602, and 2845 of the House bill, and sections 333, 584, 601, 1042, 1095, 2842, 2851-2853, and 2855 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. YOUNG of Alaska, LOBIONDO, and OBERSTAR.

From the Committee on Veterans Affairs, for consideration of sections 666, 682, 683, 687, 721, and 923 of the Senate